

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 PRS-01 ITC-01 /060 W

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R 300930Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5199

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2171

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SN

SUBJECT: US/SINGAPORE TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS

1. DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED STATES HELD TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS IN SINGAPORE ON APRIL 30. AT THESE CONSULTATIONS THE U.S. AGREED TO PERMIT SINGAPORE TO EXCEED THE CONSULTATION LEVELS FOR CATEGORIES 41/42 BY 45,996 DOZEN OR 332,735 SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT (SYE) AND FOR CATEGORY 218 BY 224,000 DOZEN OR 1,621,760 SYE IN 1976. SINGAPORE REQUESTED FURTHER 100,000 DOZEN IN CATEGORIES 4/42. U.S. DEL INDICATED THAT WHILE ADDITIONAL 32,670 DOZEN WOULD BE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME, LATER CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT PERMIT MORE FORTHCOMING RESPONSE. GOS DELEGATION SAID THAT IT MIGHT WANT TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN LATE SUMMER TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.

2. GOS DELEGATION HAD LEARNED OF MERGER OF KNIT TOP CATEGORIES IN U.S. AGREEMENT WITH HONG KONG AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURSUING SIMILAR MERGER. U.S. DELEGATION STATED THAT LIMITED TIME FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS DID NOT PERMIT EXPLORATION OF THIS POSSIBLY NOW, BUT THAT U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS AT SOME LATER
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DATE POSSIBILITY OF INSTITUTING MERGER FOR 1977 AGREEMENT YEAR.

3. SINGAPORE DELEGATION STATED THAT GOS INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES (MFA). GOS DELEGATION SAID SINGAPORE RECOGNIZES THAT SENSITIVITY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN MANY COUNTRIES WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES WHICH CAN BE EFFECTIVELY MODERATED ONLY BY INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. SINGAPORE DELEGATION ALSO EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER AUSTRALIAN ACTION ON GLOBAL TARIFF QUOTA. GOS DOES NOT BELIEVE AUSTRALIA HAS "PLAYED FAIR." GOS DEL. CHARACTERIZED AUSTRALIAN POSITION AS "UNSATISFACTORY" AND IMPOSITION OF GLOBAL TARIFF QUOTA AS "RETROGRESSIVE STEP," ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY ILLEGAL UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP02171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760166-1039
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976042/aaaaabgs.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/SINGAPORE TEXTILE CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ETRD, SN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006